

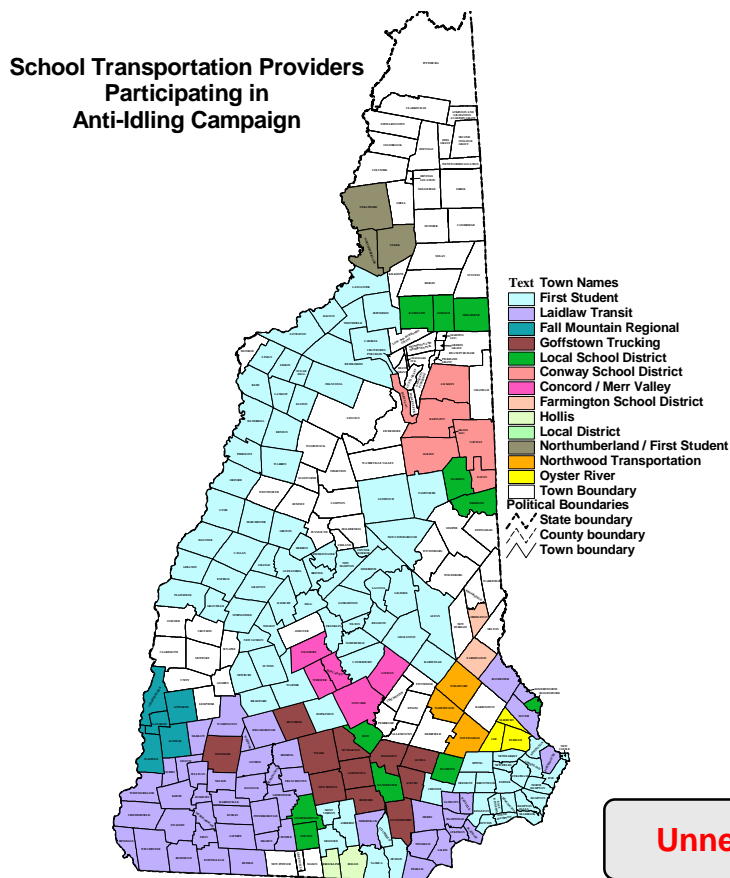
New Hampshire's Clean School Bus Initiative

Newsletter for School Transportation Providers

December 2005

Message to Transportations Providers – Take the Pledge to Implement No-Idling Policies

In 2002, the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services partnered with the NH School Transportation Association to launch the Clean School Bus Initiative. Transportation providers were asked to participate in a voluntary program to reduce school bus idling. The map below shows the providers that committed to implementing no-idling policies as of January 2005. In the June 2005 NHSTA newsletter, DES asked fleet managers to return a survey on their idling policies in order to update the list of participating providers and better quantify the benefits of the anti-idling campaign. DES only received two surveys back in response to our request (Wakefield and SAU #58). As a result, we are asking you to once again re-affirm your commitment to implement anti-idling practices with your bus drivers by filling out the “Pledge Form” on the other side and returning it to Kathy Brockett. If you haven’t taken the pledge before, now is your chance! **You must return the enclosed pledge form, regardless of whether you are on the map, by the end of January to be included on a new map for 2006.**



Updated January 13, 2005

Benefits of Reducing School Bus Idling

- ✓ Helps protect the health of drivers and students from the harmful effects of exhaust fumes.
- ✓ Saves money.
- ✓ Saves fuel.
- ✓ Reduces wear and tear on engines.
- ✓ Improves air quality by reducing ozone-forming air pollutants and toxic air pollutants.
- ✓ Helps reduce global climate change.

Unnecessary Idling Wastes Fuel and Money!

Update on the School Bus Retrofit Projects in Manchester and Nashua

In 2004, DES received a grant from EPA to retrofit buses in the Manchester and Nashua School Districts with pollution control equipment. Vendor selection for this project is underway and expected to be complete this month. Once the vendor is selected, the competitive bid pricing for this retrofit control equipment will be made available to all school districts and bus contractors.

Installation of pollution control equipment significantly reduces small particle pollution and toxic emissions from diesel exhaust.



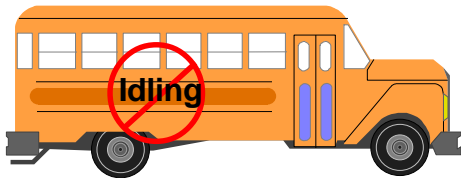
Working Together for Healthier School Communities

DES and School Bus Transportation Providers

No-Idling Guidelines for Fleet Managers and School Bus Drivers (whenever reasonable):

- All drivers should turn off engines as soon as they arrive in the school yard. PLEASE – do not allow engines to idle while discharging or waiting for passengers.
- During morning start-up, buses should idle no longer than necessary to bring them to proper operating temperature and in colder weather to defrost all windows. In colder months, block heaters and other heating devices can shorten warm-up time and avoid starting difficulties.
- In colder months, ask schools to provide a space inside where bus drivers who arrive early can wait. During athletic events, drivers should use indoor space to stay warm instead of remaining on the bus.
- When idling is necessary to run the engine for safety equipment or passenger comfort, drivers should limit idling time, based on outside air temperature, according to state regulations Env-A 1100 as follows:
 - Above 32 degrees F: 5 minutes
 - Between minus 10 degrees and 32 degrees F: 15 minutes
 - Below minus 10 degrees F: No limit
- Cold weather is a concern in New Hampshire so drivers should use **common sense and good judgement** when taking steps to reduce idling during the winter months.

Safety and comfort of passengers is always the first priority when it comes to pupil transportation!



Take the *Pledge* to reduce idling and receive free materials and state-wide recognition for your efforts!

Return this **Pledge Form** by January 31 to be included on the 2006 list of participating school bus fleets. Tear off and return to Kathy Brockett by fax (603-271-1381) or mail (NHDES, P.O. Box 95, Concord, NH 03302-0095). Don't miss this chance to save fuel, save money and protect the health of students and drivers! For questions, call Kathy at 603-271-6284 or 800-498-6868.

We pledge to implement the No-Idling guidelines listed above. We will notify drivers of the guidelines and take steps to ensure that drivers are following them.

School Transportation Provider (Bus Company or School District): _____

Address: _____

Contact Name, title: _____

Contact Phone Number and email: _____

Number of Buses: _____

Number of Drivers: _____

School Districts/Towns Served (Please list all): _____

